

U. S. Department of Agriculture
Agricultural Marketing Service
and
U. S. Department of Commerce
Weather Bureau

Nebr. Dept. of Agr. & Inspection
Division of Agr'l. Statistics
and
Agricultural Extension Service
Of Nebr. College of Agr.

NEBRASKA WEEKLY WEATHER AND CROP REPORT

Released 5-1-56

Week Ending 4-28-56

WEATHER The week was unseasonably cold, with normal temperatures only during the middle two days, but very cold weather at the beginning and close, when low temperatures were below freezing, and maxima were below freezing over the central and western portions of the State on Saturday. Moderate rains fell over the eastern portion of the State Friday night and Saturday, and light to moderate snow, freezing rain, or drizzle in the central and west. Light rain or snow fell early in the week, and also on Sunday. There was much cloudiness, and the cold weather was rather windy.

CROPS Winter wheat made very little progress last week because of the cold, dry weather. There was some yellowing of wheat in the southern counties, but generally the crop maintained the condition of the previous week. The week-end rains were varied, but generally have resulted in some improvement.

The present outlook is very good in the Panhandle, where more moisture was received and nearly all of the crop is grown under summer fallow. Rainfall was lightest in some south-central and southeastern counties. With few exceptions, the precipitation ranged from one-third to an inch or better at the close of the past week. Cutworms are doing some damage in the southern Panhandle and also in some southern counties.

Despite the delay, seeding of oats and barley is practically completed. There were some reports of early oats being frozen back. The condition of oats and barley is unchanged during the past week. Temperatures have been too low for normal growth. Generally, the top soil has been moist enough for germination, except for late plantings.

1400 - 5/1/56
There wasn't much change in the alfalfa and pasture outlook, but the outlook for wild hay is somewhat better. Moisture of the past week should be ample to start pastures and give alfalfa a little boost. However, the amount is insufficient. Warm weather and rain is needed badly. There are some local shortages of hay due to the long feeding season. Lack of early pasture is becoming more serious. Some localities report hay available. A few farmers have sold some cattle in view of the high price for hay and poor pasture prospects.

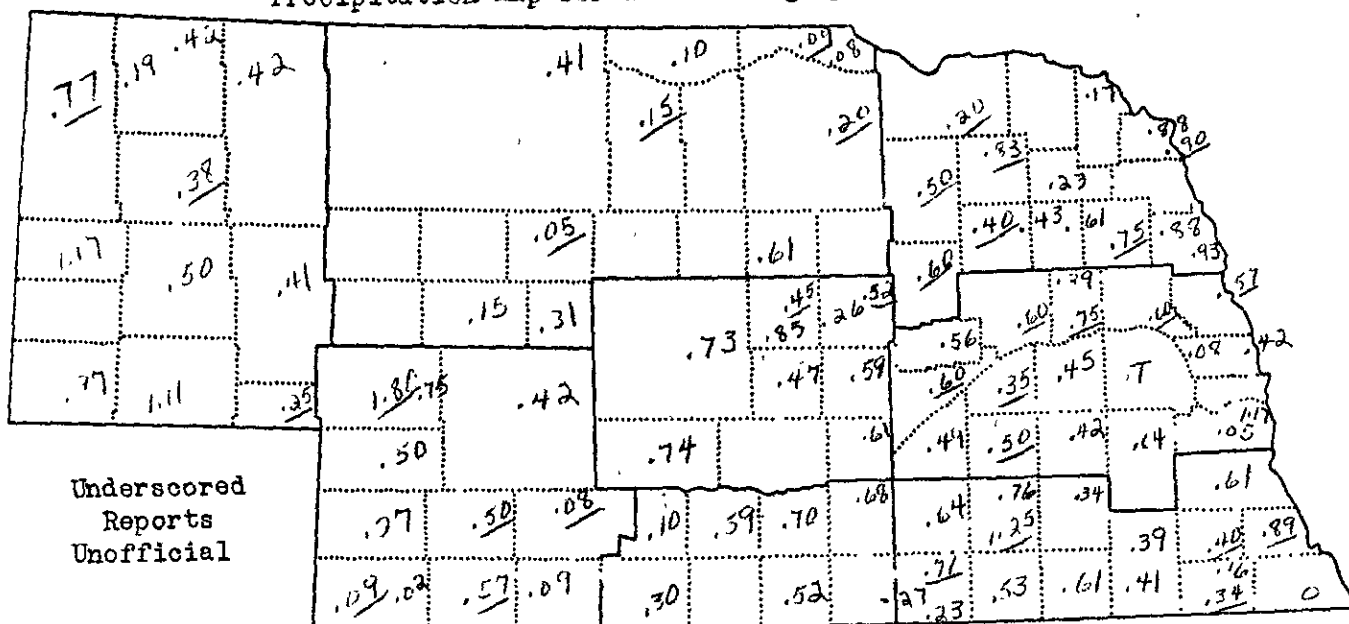
Practically all of the sugar beets are planted and some of the beets are up. The moisture of the past week-end should be ample to germinate the seed. An increased acreage of Safflower is expected and some planting is reported for south-western Nebraska.

Despite the precipitation, only 30% of the counties are reporting ample surface moisture, and only 10% of the counties report ample subsoil moisture. The latter counties are limited mostly to the Panhandle area. More than the usual amount of early spring irrigation is being done. Cold weather so far this season has delayed the development of nitrates in the soil.

Credit is rather tight for some farmers. There is some difficulty in financing spring planting. Supplies of salable corn, not under government loan, are comparatively short. Cash receipts for farm commodities were down \$39 million for the first two months of the year.

LIVESTOCK The cool, wet weather with snow last week, was unfavorable for young calves. The local shortages of hay, with practically no pasture available, is becoming critical. The moisture of the past week-end should be ample to at least start pastures, if temperatures are more favorable. Three to four inches of moisture are needed badly to moisten the surface soil and restore the subsoil moisture.

Precipitation Map for Week Ending April 27, 1956*



*Some of the stations did not include Friday night precipitation.
HIGHEST AND LOWEST TEMPERATURES (Highs for 24 hours ending at 12:30 a.m., and lows for 12 hours ending at 6:30 a.m. CST)

		April 24th		25th		26th		27th		28th		29th		30th	
		Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min
NW	Chadron	40	31	67	33	62	35	64	39	45	20	28	17	37	35
	Scottsbluff	37	31	73	34	65	40	64	39	54	22	33	22	39	32
	Sidney	36	27	74	35	63	41	75	39	62	22	30	22	44	31
NC	Burwell	--	--	--	--	60	42	70	49	53	27	29	25	34	32
	Valentine	43	28	58	36	60	38	71	40	50	22	26	23	40	29
NE	Norfolk	40	20	46	42	59	42	70	52	61	30	33	29	40	27
	Sioux City	47	23	51	43	62	40	71	50	60	31	36	30	44	29
CEN	Grand Island	37	22	48	43	60	45	73	53	64	32	34	28	38	32
EC	Lincoln	44	29	50	47	64	45	78	70	74	38	41	31	41	33
	Omaha	45	23	52	43	61	42	74	50	69	35	38	31	38	30
SW	Imperial	40	29	68	35	64	42	80	41	68	28	34	22	47	30
	North Platte	42	28	58	37	62	45	75	48	60	27	30	24	36	32

WEATHER BUREAU TELEGRAPHIC REPORT OF PRECIPITATION FOR WEEK ENDING APRIL 30, 1956

Eastern Division
Grand Island .58
Lincoln .82
Norfolk .45
Omaha .46
Sioux City 1.12

Central Division
Burwell .61
North Platte .44
Valentine .62

Western Division
Chadron .36
Imperial .45
Scottsbluff .94
Sidney .84

Precipitation, April 1-27, 1956

	Eastern Div.	Central Div.	Western Div.
Total past week	.43	.42	.56
Total since April 1	1.20	1.24	.89
Long-Time Average since April 1	2.28	2.18	1.87

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